



Illegal workers plead guilty

Majerowicz and seven other Israelis pleaded guilty to working illegally in Canada. Story, page 3.

Chisholm bows out of leadership race

Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP won't say who he'll be supporting for federal NDP • Martin Singh the lone Nova Scotian left in race

Robert Chisholm has pegged his lack of French as the reason he has exited the federal NDP leadership

Although he's been working with a tutor, Chisholm said he would not be fluent in French in time for the leadership vote in March. That is something he discovered was a non-negotiable qualification among party members.

"What's become apparent is that New Democrats feel that the next leader needs to be able to speak both official languages fluently," the Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP said at a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

That kind of leaves me out." Chisholm said when he threw

his hat into the ring in late October, he was bringing experience to the table that he said other candidates do not have.

"I had been a leader of a party, (and) I had been a leader of an opposition. That's incredibly important experience," he told reporters at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth.

But his experience did not trump

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▶ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP Robert Chisholm announces his withdrawal from the federal NDP leadership on Wednesday.

The number of candidates who remain in the running to replace the late Jack Layton as federal NDP leader.

his lack of French, he said.

Chisholm admitted the first national leadership debate earlier this month was a challenge.

"That was tough for me. It was the first opportunity I had to speak any French publicly to anybody other than my tutor.... But as tough as it was, that's what you have to do if you're committed to something," he said.

"But that still won't make me bilingual by March 24."

He said he will continue to work on his French and "will be bilingual at some point."

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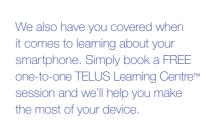
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'They lied to me,' woman tells court

Paz Kfir, 21, said she was offered what she thought at first was legal work.

"They lied to me that it was legal work," she told the court on Wednesday.

Six men and two women appeared in court in the case and only one had work papers for employment in Alberta, but not here. The others, like Kfir, were visiting Canada.

She said she needed the money and didn't go to the police because the Israeli community is tight-knit and she was worried they would find out.

"I was afraid to say anything," she said.

When the judge asked her if she applied to local Jewish organizations for help, she said she did, but was refused.

Kfir, like the seven others who appeared in court Wednesday, pleaded guilty and were handed \$1,000 fines, which they'll need to pay by Jan. 27.

Several of the Israelis came to Canada through Toronto and were told footage was taken of them working in HRM malls.

JENNIFER TAPLIN



Illegal Israeli workers enter guilty pleas

○ Several Israelis were also arrested this week in Ottawa for working illegally at mall kiosks **○** No refugee applications submitted by the Halifax workers



Eight Israeli citizens pleaded guilty on Wednesday to working illegally in Halifax.

Two more will appear in Halifax provincial court on Thursday morning.

It started early Wednesday morning as border services agents, assisted by police, searched a home on 1 Wedgewood Ave. in Clayton Park. Search warrants were also issued for Scotia Square Mall, Park Lane Mall and Bedford Place Mall.

The Israelis were working at mall kiosks for Heat in a Click, selling gel heating pads to Christmas shoppers.

Border agents escorted a number of people in handcuffs out of the house throughout the day. A few neighbours said they weren't surprised.

"I've been suspicious of that house for a while," said one neighbour of the brown-and-white rental house on the corner of the street.

He said there were always lots of people hanging out and several cars parked there — day and night — with Quebec licence plates.

Albert Price, manager



of the criminal investigations division for Canada Border Services Agency, said eight men and two women were arrested for working without authorization or employing foreign nationals.

"This is part of an ongoing investigation into illegal work," he told reporters at a press conference in Halifax on Wednesday.

An investigation was launched after they received tips and information from sources.

He said there were similar cases of Israelis work-

ing illegally in Canada but that this many arrests are "significant" in this region.

Price said if the Israelis are found to be inadmissible to Canada following court procedures, then they'll be subject to deportation.





Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in 'Is Santa Real?' Google searches. Scan code for story.

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Man charged in bar-fight death granted bail

• Jason William Whitehead back in court on Jan. 18 to enter a plea



A man charged with the death of a 23-year-old man killed outside a downtown Halifax bar last weekend has been granted bail.

Jason William Whitehead, 30, was charged Tuesday with manslaughter in the death of James Philip Mattatall.

In a court appearance on Wednesday morning at Halifax provincial court, Whitehead was released from custody after posting \$5,000 in bail under several conditions.

The tall Duncans Cove man held his black hoodie over his head as he walked in and out of the courtroom before a throng of media. He was also wearing sweatpants and glasses.

Inside the courtroom, Whitehead had no visible marks on his face. Mattatall was struck and hit the ground outside the Toothy Moose Cabaret on Argyle Street shortly before 3 a.m. on Saturday. He died later that day in the hospital.

Funeral



James Mattatall's funeral is scheduled for Thursday at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Dartmouth.

Soon after, police released the image of a man taken from the bar's surveillance cameras.

On Monday at 2:12 p.m., Whitehead walked into police headquarters and was later charged with manslaughter.

Police won't say if Whitehead was the man in the surveillance image, only that he was identified. In 2005, Whitehead was sentenced to a conditional discharge and probation for theft and resisting arrest.

• WITH FILES FROM JENNIFER TAPLIN



Joining forces to prevent bar fights

Get into a fight at one of 10 participating liquor establishments in the Truro area and you'll find yourself barred from them all.

Ten establishments in Truro and Bible Hill are implementing a suspension program to promote a safer environment for their patrons and staff.

Anyone who commits a serious offence at any of the participating establishments could find themselves barred indefinitely.

The establishments have been working for the past three months to implement a program that works for their needs, and it comes in the wake of a 23-year-old man's death after a fight the Toothy Moose Cabaret last Saturday.

The Truro and Bible Hill Safe Bar Association has the support of both the Truro Police Service and the Colchester RCMP in the program.

Those who find themselves suspended from the establishments are not permitted to be in or upon the premises or loitering by them. TRURO DAILY NEWS

Publication ban lifted on alleged abuse victim

A man who accused a Cape Breton businessman of sexually abusing him when he was a young boy has had a publication ban on his name lifted.

A spokeswoman for the Public Prosecution Service said Weldon MacIntosh-Reynolds applied for the motion in Nova Scotia Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Chris Hansen said the Crown did not oppose the application and the judge granted it.

The 56-year-old man was one of three complainants who accused Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh of abusing them in the 1970s.

Earlier this month the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal overturned all the convictions against MacIntosh, ruling he was not brought to trial in a reasonable time. MacIntosh was found guilty in July 2010 on 13 of 26 charges of indecent assault and gross indecency almost 15 years after the allegations surfaced.

He was sentenced to four years in prison in his first trial and later sentenced to 18 months in jail on separate sex-related charges involving other boys in the 1970s.

Blair Mitchell, MacIntosh-Reynold's lawyer, said



his client applied to have the ban lifted so he could speak openly about his case.

"He feels there's a sharp need for more public education in the field," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said MacIntosh-Reynolds plans to do public speaking engagements.

MacIntosh was extradited from India in 2007 to face the charges that surfaced in 1995 and dated

Ban on other IDs

 The publication ban remains in place on the identities of other complainants in the case.

back decades.

The appeals court judges found that MacIntosh's "right to be tried within a reasonable time was infringed."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Petty concert a 'once-in-alifetimething': Fan

Al Isnor may be watching Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers from the upper bowl of the Halifax Metro Centre in late May, but that doesn't faze the longtime fan.

The Clayton Park resident arrived at work late Wednesday morning to ensure his spot at the rocker's show. After hitting the refresh button on the Ticket Atlantic website several times, Isnor was finally able to purchase the bank-

breaking tickets at about 9:02 a.m.

"It's pricey, but a oncein-a-lifetime thing. To see him in our own backyard, it's going to be amazing," Isnor told Metro in a phone interview. Tickets, which range from \$103 to \$206.50, went on sale Wednesday at 9 a.m., and only three minutes later,

Rockin' Halifax

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers will rock the Metro Centre stage on May 31.

the best available seats were in the upper bowl. Concert promoter David Carver said although the show isn't sold out, he expects the remaining 500 tickets will go fast.

"I'm surprised there's even any left right now ... but I'm sure they'll be gone, if not today, by tomorrow," he said Wednesday evening.

Tickets started appearing on Kijiji as early as Tuesday morning, with some sellers asking \$1,000



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Almost time to lace 'em up

- Rink can accommodate up to 1,500 skaters at one time
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon on Friday



Dozens of workers have

been hustling and bustling to complete work at the Emera Oval for the grand opening on Friday. But with a potentially wet day on the horizon, HRM's manager of oval operations says the blades may not be able to hit the ice on the oval until later Friday or even Saturday.

"I really don't know how (the weather) will affect it," said John Henry, noting that Environment Canada was calling for up to 15 millimetres of rain overnight Wednesday and into Thursday morning.

He said organizers will make the call Friday morning.

Henry said those looking for the same experience as last winter will not be disappointed.

"They're not going to see a whole lot of difference at all," Henry said above the noise of the busy site at the Halifax Common. "We have a permanent concrete pad underneath the ice, but users won't see the difference."

On Wednesday, about 40 workers were running around the site, prepping the ice, putting down rubber matting and organiz-

100K

The number of people who skated on the oval last winter, not including Canada Games athletes.

ing the benches.

Henry said all the amenities of the 400-metre oval are the same, as they are still in a temporary phase.

Next year, however, the city will look at building a permanent structure that would house administration offices, food vendors and skate and helmet rental, among other things, Henry said.

Halifax regional council approved \$4.3 million in oval funding for 2011-12 and \$1.4 million for next year. It's estimated it will cost about \$400,000 to operate annually.

The Emera Oval is the largest outdoor, artificially refrigerated ice surface east of Quebec City, with an ice surface equivalent to three NHL hockey rinks.



Wayne MacNaughton is grateful he escaped homelessness.

But getting off the street isn't an easy task, and these days, those who are still homeless are having a tougher time beating the odds, he said Wednesday at a morning memorial service for people who have died homeless

"I'm grateful for the activists that stand up for the rights of the homeless," he said at St. Patricks's Church on Brunswick Street in Halifax. "It's a very important ... and difficult thing to undertake."

More than 180 people turned out for the 11th annual service. Former

Performance

The Shining Lights Choir, comprised of currently and formerly homeless people, sang a selection of tunes for the audience.

homeless citizens talked about their experiences, while activists talked about making homelessness a thing of the past.

"Sometimes we focus on the structures that make the city, and not the citizens that live in them," said Rev. Rhonda Britton of the Cornwallis Street Baptists Church. "Homelessness can be overcome. You — we — can be that great generation."

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Fraudster Lesa George gets jail time after pleading guilty

• There were 13 victims in these charges • George was previously convicted for fraud and served time



Bud Webster doesn't expect he'll ever see the money convicted fraudster Lesa George owes him.

"I'll never see it, but I don't care. It might make her pay attention when she gets out (of jail)," he

Webster rented George a house in Bedford last spring, where she lived from April 15 until June 3, when she was arrested for

George, 48, provided the first and second month's rent, but the 10 post-dated cheques she gave him bounced. She owes him about \$2,700 plus \$1,400 for moving and storing her belong-

Webster said George dressed and spoke very professionally.

"She said she had a factory in Ottawa and she built eco-friendly homes and she worked in troubled areas like in New Orleans," he said.

"I believed her. She looked good."

George has been found guilty of defrauding more than a dozen people — including friends - out of thousands of dollars in various schemes. In one, for example, she pretend-

Sentence

Defrauded. Crown attorney Rick Woodburn said 25 months is a lengthy sentence for what George did. "And she deserved it considering all the people she defrauded in various ways," he said.

ed she was a cancer surivor going through a divorce.

She was given credit for more than six months served in remand and was sentenced Wednesday to 25 months in a federal jail for 37 guilty pleas.

There were originally 136 charges, but many were withdrawn because they overlapped.

George is also under 11 restitution orders to pay back about \$55,000 to the victims.

"The reality is, if she behaves, she'll do five and a half months and she'll be out," Webster said. "It's a slap on the wrist really, but at least she won't be out for Christmas."

Judge Michael Sherar said George was an actor who told people she was a successful businesswoman or lawyer.

"Ms. George, brought yourself to this situation," he said. "The lies build upon each other and now you're here to-



to 25 months in prison after pleading guilty to multiple fraud-related charges on Tuesday.

2 Cape Breton hospitals to receive upgrades



N.S. funds

Funding from the province covers 75 per cent of the cost, while the Cape Breton District Health Authority will provide the remaining 25 per cent.

The province says it will spend nearly \$1.1 million to upgrade medical equipment at two Cape Breton hospitals.

Health Minister Maureen MacDonald says province will give \$975,000 toward a new CT scanner for the Cape Breton Regional Hospital and \$112,500 for a new digital angiography unit at the Glace Bay Hospital.

The new units will replace older equipment that can no longer be repaired.

The new CT scanner replaces a 12-year-old scanner at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital that could no longer be used, while the digital angiography unit will replace a 13-year-old

analog machine.

The new unit will be used to assess patients with macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other retinal diseases.

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Group takes on oil-and-gas company

The co-chairman of a citizens' group in Cape Breton says they're headed to court not only to block a proposal for an exploratory drilling project but also to set a key legal precedent.

Neal Livingston said Wednesday the Margaree **Environmental Association** has filed a court appeal to quash a permit that would allow Toronto-based Petroworth Resources Inc. to drill a conventional oiland-gas test well near Lake Ainslie.

If the group's court challenge is successful, the ruling could be used by other communities to stop the oil-and-gas industry from drilling too close to homes and in ecologically sensitive areas, Livingston said in an interview Wednesday.

"We're going to court because it was absolutely inappropriate that the minister had given this authority (for drilling) so close to homes and watercourses," he said.

"In the absence of any proper guidelines being established by the province, we think that these permits should not be issued by the government.'

Petroworth's proposed well would sit about 600 metres from Cape Breton's largest freshwater lake. and only about 30 metres from a brook that is part of the Margaree River watershed.

The activists say seven homes are within a kilometre of the proposed well. Residents also say they are concerned about possible air pollution and increased truck traffic on rural roads.

The appeal process should take about three months, during which the environmental group will be poised to file an injunction should Petroworth start drilling, Livingston

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deadline

Date. The company website savs it has until July 15. 2012, to drill the test well.

Setting tone at Province House for 2012

• Looking back on the issues that dominated fall sitting with end-of-year interview with premier • Dexter says NDP will stick to plan, not call early election • Shifting mood as government enters second half of mandate



After two and a half years of governing, Premier Darrell Dexter believes his government has more "partners" then "opponents."

In a year-end interview with Metro Halifax, Nova Scotia's 27th premier said he thinks people have seen a value in working with the government provincial rather than criticizing it.

"What we've seen is that, whether with students or collaborative emergency centres or any of those pieces where we've been moving things forward, that generally those communities have found it's better for them to co-operate and to achieve the beneassociated co-operation than simply to



be critical and therefore have to comply with the budgetary considerations," said Dexter.

That could be a tough sell to his opponents. Throughout the recently concluded fall sitting, Dex-

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ter was criticized for dismissing the business community's concerns on Bill 102, which introduced firstcontract arbitration in Nova

A legion of business organizations, as well as

Wireless Communications

"I think it's difficult in the house, (where) there's a certain level of manufactured outrage that goes along with every issue. It doesn't matter what it is." PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER

heavyweights like Sobeys, Michelin and Clearwater. appeared before the legislature's law amendments committee to oppose the bill. If the government was committed to the legislation, some presenters said, they should at least consider amendments to lessen the perceived blow.

While the Progressive Conservatives opposed the legislation outright, the Liberal party suggested several amendments of their own.

The bill passed with only minor tweaks.

"Here I am, I listened to what the opposition had to say, and yet ... while Bill 102 was going on, I'm at the Cunard Centre with 700 business people, with Jim Irving and Rick Clarke on the stage, and we're getting standing ovations," Dexter, referring at the end to the CEO of Irving Shipbuilding and then the president of the Nova Scotia Labour Federation. there seemed to me to be a

disconnect between that notion that somehow we don't get along with the

The provincial government also faced criticism over a \$50-million deal to save the Bowater Mersey plant and the reported 2,000 jobs that hinge on the

put the deal, already signed, into legislation so the opposition parties could express their position on the record.

ter's office was clear: Opposition parties either support the deal, which required very little legislative changes, or they oppose 2,000 jobs in Queen's Countv. In fact, a recent postcard mailed to residents in the South Shore area said as much explicitly.

Rumours of a possible 2012 election have been swirling since the summer.

One could argue it would be timely for the government, after Irving Shipbuilding's successful bid on the \$25-billion shipbuilding contract — which the NDP successfully attached their name to.

NDP backbenchers have been doing the rounds for the last month, holding funding announcements the larger-thanexpected 2012 capital budget. And throughout 2011, Dexter's government has polled in majority territory.

But Dexter said the plan is to stick to the 2009 plan, which set the government on a four-year path to balance the budget.

"We're on (the) track that we laid out in our first few months of government," he said. "Every indication that I have ... is that we are on track to do what we set out to do. And that means getting through another budget in the spring and looking out another year to the further budget and balance. So we're going to continue on that track.'

Still, over the last few months Dexter has seemed more willing to engage his opponents both inside and outside the House of Assembly. And that will likely continue through 2012 as the province inches closer to the polls.



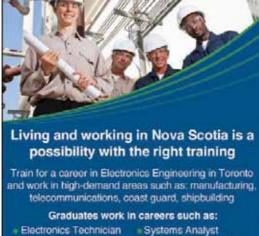
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The message from Dex-

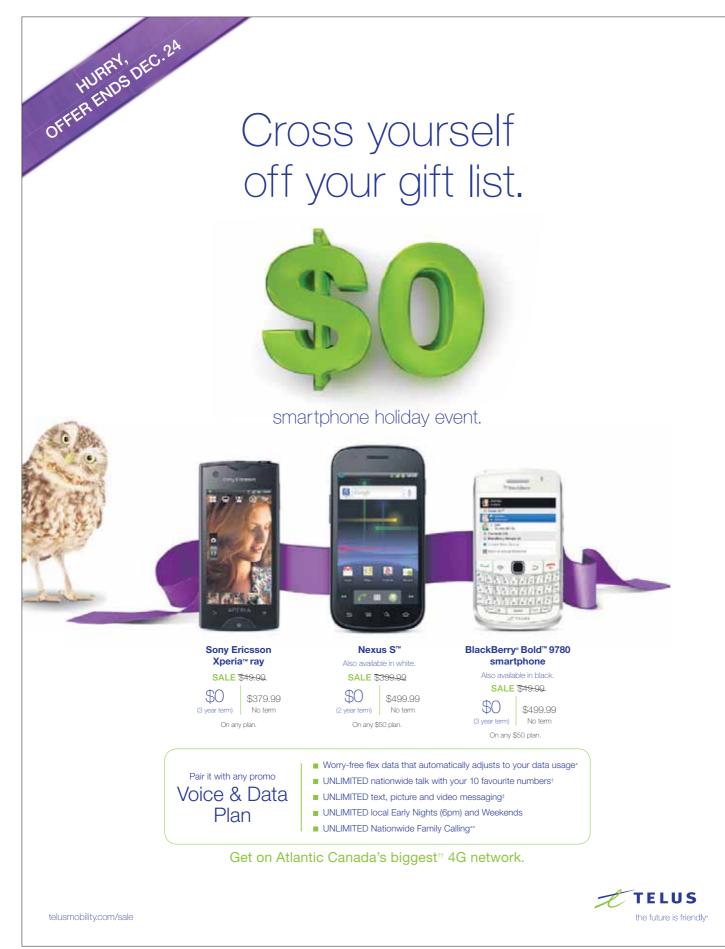
Both instances signal a shift in the attitude at Province House as the NDP enters the second half of its

Things to watch

The NewPage Situation. The province just committed \$50 million to keep Bowater open. Will whoever ends up with NewPage look for similar assistance?

Federal-provincial relations. The provinces are still absorbing news the federal government isn't interested in negotiating health, social and equalization transfers. Expect the issue to come up again.

The budget. Finance Minister Graham Steele says the province is on track to deliver a \$368million deficit this spring. But, as we saw in 2011, that number can fluctuate wildly from December to April.



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Truro Mall

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Corner Brook Plaza Valley Mall

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Tory MP speaks out for rights of unborn

• He deplores 'subhuman' status

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

Stephen Woodworth's view is seen as an attempt to reopen the debate around abortion laws.

'Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Woodworth said yesterday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be subhuman while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."
The MP from Kitchener,

PM's blockade

- Woodworth's views face a bleak future in Parliament.
- Prime Minister Stephen Harner vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

Ont., doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he gently suggests it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



80-day voyage ends with a kiss It is a time-honoured tradition at U.S. navy homecomings — one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. Yesterday in Virginia Beach, Va., for what is believed to be the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay.

Topless activists accuse 'butchers' of abuse

They say they were made to undress in the woods in freezing temperatures, punched in the head and back, threatened with and rape, and smeared with paint.

A group of women from Ukrainian toplessprotest group yesterday recounted their ordeal at the hands of security officials in neighbouring Be-

Oksana Shechko said she and two fellow activists were first interrogated on a bus for 12 hours. Then the indignities began.

"It was a real fight for survival," Shechko said after returning to Kyiv.

"We ended up in the hands of the butchers who kill and terrify the Belarusian people."

Shechko, 24, said the activists were made to sit still on the bus for several hours, prevented from speaking or moving.



"If we moved our heads or hands, they beat us,' Shechko said.

They were left halfnaked in a forest, where they eventually found help from area residents.

Shechko claimed they were punished for a protest in Minsk in which they bared their breasts to bring attention to President Aleksander Lukashenko's crackdown on the opposition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal rule

- Lukashenko has repressed opposition and media since becoming leader of Belarus, a former Soviet republic, in 1994.
- In December 2010 elections, he was declared winner, but protesters denounced alleged vote fraud.
- Police arrested around 700 people, some of whom remain in jail.

Prize car in a crash

A U.S. man who won a \$380,000 Lamborghini in a contest crashed the sports car six hours after he got

The lime green Murcielago Roadster was on its way to a Las Vegas body shop yesterday for repairs.

David Dopp said he was taking friends and family on rides when the vehicle hit ice or loose gravel and started spinning. No one was injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince's new challenge

Britain's Prince Harry, 27, says he'll be deployed to Afghanistan for a second time, a British news report said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A washroom voyeur

Hamilton police say a 19vear-old man faces voyeurism charges after a cellphone camera was discovered in the ceiling of a women's washroom.

Police say the phone, in video record mode, was

placed in the ceiling tiles above a toilet stall.

Three women entered the stall before the phone was discovered.

The man was held for a bail hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police tear down Occupy Winnipeg camp

- Protesters had occupied Memorial Park since Oct. 15 Throughout winter, camp of 30 dwindled to three

OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

About 30 natural-resource officers and city police officers swooped into the Oc-Winnipeg cupy encampment at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Wednesday to enforce a provincial removal order issued last

Police briefly detained three occupiers at the camp while NROs dismantled and loaded a yurt (a small tent-like structure), two tents and all contents onto a trailer. Occupiers were told they could claim their belongings after they were catalogued.

"They sent 30 guys to take care of three peaceful protesters," said Kristaps Balodis, who had been

"I'm disappointed at how disrespectful the police force was. They tore all the tarps. They just ripped it down and took all our stuff. They ripped all the tarps on the yurt, and that all belongs to the Twelve Tribes (community). And they ... (just) destroyed it."

KRISTAPS BALODIS, OCCUPIER

sleeping in the yurt.

"This isn't the end. ... This isn't the last you'll see of the camp. That I can say for sure."

Of the three evicted occupiers, Terry Weaymouth was the only one to get a written notice of eviction.

"Occupy Winnipeg is pretty much done, in my opinion, unless we take immediate action to set up somewhere else," Weaymouth told Metro Winnipeg as he surveyed the empty park.

"Personally I'd like to see (a tent) go up tonight, even if it's just one tent, just to defy these f-ers."

Weaymouth said Manitoba Conservation district supervisor Joe Johannesson told him a hay bale fire last week was the final

straw for the province. "He said, 'Well, it's because of the last fire. ... Safety is being threatened, so (we've) got to do this.' That's just an excuse.'



In a written statement on Monday regarding the previous week's removal orders, the province said, "As with past orders, structures that are occupied will be allowed to remain."

In the afternoon, Conservation minister Dave Chomiak told media the province decided to remove the camp when they received a report from the fire commissioner on Tuesday calling the camp unsafe.

When asked what the response would be if occupiers were to erect a new tent, Chomiak said, "We'd immediately remove it."



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Capital Health wishes you a healthy, happy holiday season.

To prepare for your health needs please note the following holiday service changes:

Most walk-in blood collection services will close at noon Dec. 23 and re-open for regularly scheduled hours Dec. 28. Mt. Uniacke and St. Margaret's Bay Blood Collection are closed from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. All Blood Collection Clinics are closed Monday,

Walk in X-ray services at all Capital Health hospitals, except Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital, will be closed from noon Dec. 23 through Jan. 2. For hours at Eastern Shore, please call the hospital directly.

If you have urgent blood collection or x-ray needs, please contact your family doctor.

For more information on holiday hours, please visit www.cdha.nshealth.ca and click the 'Holiday Hours' banner.

Capital Health reminds you to think about your health needs before the holidays:

- · Ensure your prescriptions are filled.
- · Do not over-exert yourself shovelling snow.
- Enjoy holiday cheer in moderation.
- . If you have a chronic medical condition, anticipate your needs and have them taken care of in advance.



News in brief

Airline carbon charge a go in EU

LAWSUIT. U.S. airlines failed Wednesday to block an EU law charging airlines flying to Europe for their carbon pollution. The decision by an EU court was widely hailed by environmentalists but the Fitch ratings agency said it raised the spector of a global trade dispute. U.S. and other non-European airlines had sued the EU, arguing that they were exempt from the law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway gives hand to partners

DEBT. Norway says it will provide \$9.3 billion US to the International Monetary Fund to help heavily indebted nations avoid

default. Norway is not part of the European Union and its economy is cushioned by income from its oil and gas exports. Still, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg noted that it's in Norway's interest to help European trading parties. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic confidence shaky: Survey

CONSUMERS. A new survey suggests that more than a third of Canadians, or 36 per cent — including well over half of young people — feel more stressed about their financial situation now than a year ago. The survey commissioned by insurer Sun Life Financial comes as the economy slows down and volatile markets, squeezed incomes and recession fears erode consumer and business confidence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Proposed takeovers of RIM dismissed

Analysts grapple over BlackBerry maker's future
 Shares up 10 per cent with proposal from Amazon



With more takeover rumours roiling around Research In Motion and lifting its stock price, analysts said Wednesday there's little chance the struggling BlackBerry maker will be acquired in the near future.

"I think from the board's perspective, which tends to be friendly to the co-CEOs, they will want to give them a chance because six months ago this was a \$50 stock," William Blair & Co. analyst Anil Doradla said.

Reuters reported Tuesday that Internet retailer Amazon.com recently approached RIM to discuss a takeover, but the Canadian company rejected the move. In the past, Microsoft and Nokia also dabbled in potential offers, but they



were also rebuffed by RIM. Samsung has also been named as a potential suitor.

"We continue to view near-term mergers and acquisitions for RIM as very unlikely given the company's dismal performance and uncertain outlook," said National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson.

RIM has disappointed investors with the delay of its next BlackBerry until late 2012 and meagre financial results. THE CANADIAN PRESS

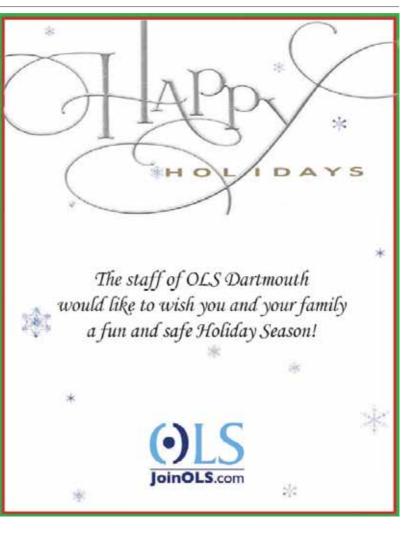


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STRIKE THE HARP AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE METRO

I'm not much for Christmas

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the

creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a can-

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday

"classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-

style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a

dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

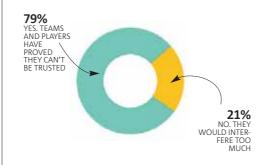
Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets



@Mark Black:

The girl with the dragon tattoo used to work at the quinpool Superstore. ifax

- @MedBlumenthal: Had a wander through the floors of #Halifax City Hall yesterday looking for my uncle. Oh I would love to be there all the time... ...
- **@ChristenTide:** Finally in the Christmas Spirit! House is decorated, Tree is up and decorated. Now to buy presents.... #halifax

- @beckstreet3: Lots of hustle and bustle downtown #Halifax today! Love it!
- @MommaPE: Anyone know of a good #preschool or #daycare in #Halifax? Need a one or two day/week spot for a cute genius:)
- @megnorris: Were those live models in the window of Lily's Lingerie? #Halifax
- @Mattzors: How do I get a summer #job on a #tallship in #Halifax



Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmasthemed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

Quite the vuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. • metro



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Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Art feeding a province

• Local artist happy to showcase her talents for this year's Feed Nova Scotia calendar

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER



It took more than 60 years but Carol Pye is finally a calendar girl. A clinical psy-

chologist, Pye enjoys her own form of therapy through art.

"The love of art has al-

ways been there, it would emerge from time to time," Pye tells me. "I'd take a course or I'd buy some materials and experiment."

Purely self-taught, Pye quickly found her niche.

"The vast majority of my paintings are landscapes," she explains. "I'm attracted and interested in horizon lines, shapes of the hills, light falling on these elements. Just natural and simple beauty."

So when Pye tuned into

Where to buy

The details:

Website To order the Sharing the View calendars, visit feednovascotia.com.

CBC's Information Morning and heard their call for artists to submit paintings of mornings around Nova Scotia for the second annual Sharing the View project for Feed Nova Scotia, it was fitting Pye was

the first to reach out.

"CBC has been a strong partner of ours for over 20 years and have provided support through a number of different initiatives," said Dianne Swinemar, Feed Nova Scotia's executive director. "This is just the most recent."

The Sharing the View project collects themed works from 12 local artists. Those paintings are used to create a calendar, while the original works are put up for auction. With the calendars

flying off the shelves at \$20 each, total sales will be added to the \$18,270 from last week's auction and go directly to Feed Nova Scotia — a sum of money that will help keep the organization well stocked for the holiday season.

"It was great fun and a wonderful cause," Pye said

Bringing in \$1,000 for her piece, Pye (or Miss July as she is now known), is happy she participated and looks forward to next year's theme.

Fighting against false 'idols'

• American Idol runner-up Archuleta taking a break to serve on a Mormon church mission

American Idol runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The contestant from the 2007-2008 season made the announcement during

a Christmas concert Monday in downtown Salt Lake City, according to the Deseret News.

The 20-year-old Miami native, who grew up in Murray, Utah, said he's not quitting music, but feels a strong call to serve the church.

A video of the concert on Archuleta's website shows him overwhelmed with emotion and crying as he talks about his plans. The crowd screams wildly with the news and gives him a standing ovation.

"It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," Archuleta told the crowd.

Archuleta was 16 when he competed on Idol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Battle of the Canuck crooners

• It's a tale of the tape as Justin Bieber and Michael Bublé square off for Christmas dominance

Justin Bieber's holiday show may be the hottest ticket in Toronto this week, but few have better reasons for Christmas cheer this season than his compatriot Michael Bublé.

While Bieber performed a hotly anticipated acoustic Christmas show at Toron-to's Massey Hall on Wednesday night, Bublé is fresh off a memorable performance on Saturday Night Live and his holiday disc has been one of the hottest items of the holiday shopping season.

So, which Canadian crooner is flying higher at the moment?

Perhaps a tale of the tape can help determine the victor

AGE

Bublé is 36; Bieber is 17.

HOMETOWN

Bieber hails from Stratford, Ont., while Bublé grew up in Burnaby, B.C.

MOST MANTEL METAL

Considering that Bieber's brand of featherlight teenpop typically elicits sneering from some critics, his awards tally has been impressive: two Juno Awards and a pair of Grammy nominations. Respectable, to be sure, but no match for Bublé, whose distinctive retro charm has helped him haul home 10 Junos and three Grammys.

Advantage: Bublé



FAMOUS FRIENDS

Bublé has a longstanding partnership with well-connected Canadian hitmaker David Foster, he reeled in Shania Twain for a White Christmas duet and he starred in a splashy holiday special that featured a bevy of well-known guests, none bigger than ... well, Justin Bieber. Bieber, meanwhile, has collaborated with Usher, Kanye West, Mariah Carey, Miley Cyrus, Chris Brown, Rascal Flatts, Lu-

dacris and Boyz II Men. **Advantage: Bieber**

TABLOID TRAUMA

Bieber's squeaky-clean image was tainted slightly this year when the singer was slapped with a paternity suit — allegations his team has vigorously denied — while he and girlfriend Selena Gomez were shadowed everywhere they went by prying paparazzi.

The newlywed Bublé and wife Luisana Lopilato seem

to be afforded slightly more privacy.

Advantage: Bublé

SILVER-SCREEN DREAMS

Bublé has mused in interviews about an eventual transition to acting, and he won laughs with a recent cameo on Saturday Night Live (one which coincidentally poked fun at Bieber). But his IMDB credits are limited to pre-fame performances in little-known

stinkers (2001's Totally Blonde, anyone?).

Bieber's two-episode arc as a troubled teen on CSI didn't exactly elicit Emmy attention, but it was a bona fide role on a popular show, and his concert film Never Say Never earned more than \$70 million in North America.

Advantage: Bieber

SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

This one's a landslide.

Bieber has nearly 15.6-million followers on Twitter, an army of devoted fans who hang on his every lower-case missive as if their lives depend on it. Bublé has roughly 600,000 followers but doesn't issue the tweets himself — the reliably irreverent singer told The Canadian Press recently that he had to stay away from the platform because "(he would) get in huge trouble within days."

Advantage: Bieber

DECEMBER DOMINANCE

While Bieber's Under the Mistletoe has sold briskly reaching platinum certification three times in Canada — Bublé has this year achieved a level of holiday ubiquity usually reserved for festive drinks, goofy sweaters and tense family dinners. Bublé's album, Christmas, has been certified platinum seven times over in Canada and, according to Billboard, it's on pace to become the second bestselling record of the year in U.S., behind only Adele's 21.

Advantage: Bublé

BEST HAIR

Sorry, Mike.

Advantage: Bieber

THE WINNER:

Two Canadians doing extraordinarily well for themselves with fanbases that barely overlap?

Let's call this a tie.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hathaway in no New York hurry to tie the knot

Anne Hathaway is ready to marry fiancé Adam Shulman — but apparently not as ready as the New York Post would like.

The newspaper reported earlier this week that the couple had set an October 2012 wedding date and had even sent out save-the-date cards to guests on the list for a lavish, New York-area cere-

However Hathaway's rep insists that there is no date and no cards have been sent out, according to a report from E! News.



Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season • Jones' rep denies the claims

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THE WORD

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Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according

Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says.

"The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication," "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool...'

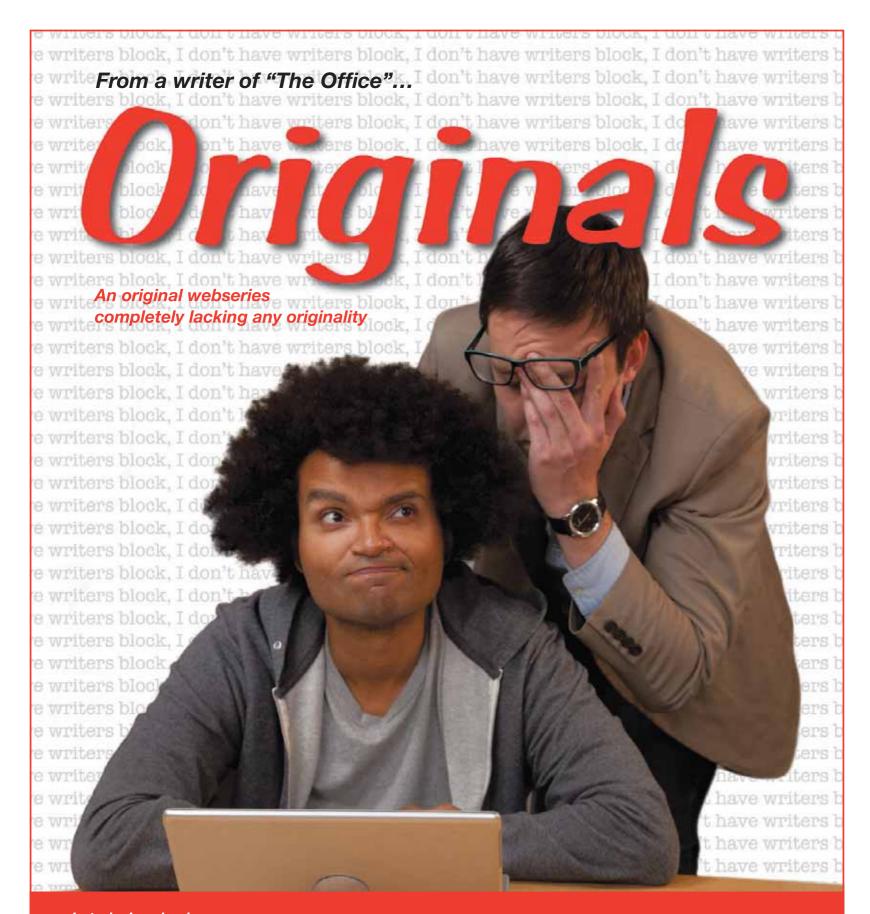
Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.



More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."



In today's episodes...

The Originals webseries draws to a close today with episodes 8 and 9. Will the guys finally come up with an original TV show idea for their big pitch meeting? Will Jason win Carina? Will Marsha win Jason? Will Trish really help Bryce? Will there be a wrap party? Find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions. Watch the concluding episodes today.





Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange

Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line.





InandOut of fashion

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the bestdressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding - as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell.

Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on



seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.







THE YEAR'S



THE **KARDASHIANS**

Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.



JENNIFER LOPEZ

She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.



JESSICA SIMPSON

Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?



Arch appeal: Achieve simple, spirited brows

THE KIT

By Janine Falcon

Bold brows wowed from the most recent runways, theatrically at Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander Wang, and in a more wearable fashion from Jill Stuart and Prada.

Powders pencils and browbuilding staples, but fine-tip marker-like pens are on the



rise, like the one blonde to dark brunette.

launched a few years

back. Now available from Stila. Urban Decay and Gosh, they offer sheer. longlasting shades

Tint in Universal Blonde and Universal Brunette. each, urbandecay.com

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Color in Medium (also

comes in Light). \$27

each. stilacosmetics.com.

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Pens, in Dark Brown,

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Jeanne Space



In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:



Now pre-taping 2 @CTVCanadaAM segments: 2011's top style mavens + fashion's top news stories. Who do YOU think rocked style this year?

- ▶ @MsJoyce_xo: so many choices but if they put Pippa Middleton on another best dressed list I am going to lose my mind. #idontseeit
- @Jeanne_Beker: I know... But hard to ignore. And better than some ol' movie star....
- @WordfromSteph: Kate Winslet. She's totally coming out of her shell. Her Cover shoot for British Glamour = fabulous!!
- ► @Jeanne_Beker: Agree!!!!



- @TeatroVerdi with my mum. True Joy!
- Gescobar700: for the man...Adam Levels/ Anderson Cooper. For the ladies, Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker, Victoria Beckham Tilda Swinton.
- ▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Cool choices!

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV. JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.



Dragon breathes fire into collection

Stieg Larsson's enigmatic anti-heroine Lisbeth Salander, from the bestselling books and upcoming U.S. film remake The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, is an unlikely trendsetter.

From her multiple facial piercings and choppy, jet-black hair to her ripped tees and work boots held together with duct tape, Lisbeth's look is not only unconventional, but some might find it

off-putting.

"We always wanted her clothes to sort of repel people and be a means of keeping people away," said actress Rooney Mara at the film's New York premiere Wednesday, a

day before nabbing a Golden Globe nod for the

Yet huge Swedish retailer H&M saw an opportunity in sprucing up Lisbeth's style and making it safer for the masses.

The Dragon Tattoo Collection, created by costume designer Summerville, features faux-leather coats, biker pants, shredded tees and dark denim miniskirts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEN A BOOK, NOT A COAT

CHARLES THE BUTIFR



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Hi Charles, I bought a beautiful pink leather jacket and somehow got a couple of ballpoint pen marks on it about an inch or two long. Do you know of any method to remove these marks?

I've done some research on this and you do have a difficult problem on your hands. I have two suggestions for you.



But before you do anything, remember to please first check the suggested solution on an area that is not visible to ensure you do not damage the leather.

I have two options for

1. Rub the ink mark with a soft cloth dampened with milk, then sponge it with warm water.

2. Try dabbing a Q-Tip in rubbing alcohol then using the Q-Tip to slowly work on the ink mark. My only concern is that the alcohol may damage the colour of the leather. So definitely test this method first!

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Say 'cheese' for the New Year

▶ Having people over to ring in 2012? ◆ Serve a healthy cheese fondue



Want a trick for starting the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess

is low in calories and fat.

Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving. This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

Preparation:

Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light wholewheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water • 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced

shallot

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec
- Champagne, divided • 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino
- Romano cheese, grated • 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut
- up with rind removed Salt and cavenne pepper

- Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
- Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
- In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
- In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
- Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie.

Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO, AU-THOR OF EAT THIS NOW!



Mary Karlin's Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

This lavishly illustrated quide features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego and Irish-Style Cheddar.

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Keeping a tab on technology

Flat, hard packages will be welcome this year. Tablet computers are extremely popular, and electronic reading devices such as the Kindle have matured and come down in price.

Which one to get? That's mostly a matter of your

If you have more than \$300 to spend, go for one of these full-size tablets. They have colour screens that are about nine inches diagonally, and they have builtin cameras.

Apple 16GB iPad 2 (\$498.99 at Future Shop)

The device that made tablet computing mainstream still reigns, outselling all others combined. It's thinner than competing tablets and has access to an unparalleled array of applications: Half a million, of which 140,000 are adapted for the iPad's 9.7inch screen.

That means more good games, more useful reference apps and more entertainment options. The range of third-party book apps also means the iPad beats dedicated e-readers at their own game by giving users the ability to read books purchased from any

Sony S1 16GB Tablet (\$399.99 at Best Buy)

There are a slew of tablets from Samsung, Sony, LG and other manufacturers built around Google Inc.'s Android software. From a hardware standpoint, they are not much different from the iPad, though most of them are thicker.

The Tablet S stands out by including an infrared



* A model plays a game on Sony's new Tablet S during a launch event in Tokyo.



* The new Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet.

emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It has a 9.4-inch screen, slightly smaller than the iPad's. It runs the latest version of Android, which is specially designed for tablets and is

ASUS 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer, 16GB (\$346 at Wal-Mart)

The Transformer is a rea-



★ The Apple iPad 2.

sonably priced Android tablet that doubles as a "netbook," or small laptop, if you buy an accessory keyboard dock for \$109. The keyboard has a touchpad. extra ports and an additional power pack, which prolongs battery life.

For those willing to travel

If you only want to spend \$200 US to \$250 US, go for



* The Amazon Kindle Touch 3G.

one of these e-reader/tablet hybrids, but they aren't yet available in Canada. They add movies, games and other applications to the ereader's capabilities, so they are not just for bookworms

Amazon Kindle Fire (\$199 US)

The Fire is Amazon's first colour Kindle. It runs a highly modified,

friendly version of Android. The selection of apps is smaller than for other Android tablets, however,

Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet (\$249 US)

The bookstore's answer to the Kindle Fire is an updated version of last year's Nook Color, a solid and successful e-reader. The Tablet has more memory than the Color or the Kindle Fire.

If your budget is limited to \$150, you will be tempted by some low-end colour tablets. But giving one away is like giving away a lump of coal: The colour touch screens that go into sub-\$200 devices look bad and have problems responding to fingers.

Instead, get one of these lightweight, quality e-readers with black-and-white "electronic ink" screens for the bookworm in your life

Amazon Kindle Touch 3G (\$149 US)

Amazon still has a variety of monochrome Kindles, including its first touch-screen model. The screen is more legible than colour screens in bright daylight and uses very little power. But it's slow to respond, making navigation tedious.

Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch (\$99 US)

This slim, light e-reader is very similar to the \$99 non-3G Kindle Touch. Barnes & Noble's version has two advantages: It doesn't display advertising, and it can load books from other bookstores, including Google Books. It can't load Kindle books, though. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS























Primetime Bracelet, \$330,

available at Swarovski swarovski.com.

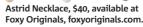


Beautiful baubles

Elephant Necklace, \$40, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

TORI.XO Shoreline Bangle, \$220, available at torixo.com.

Astrid Necklace, \$40, available at



Lindy Ring,\$19.50, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com



TORI.XO Chantilly Ring, \$95, available at orixo.com.

Jewel Box \$16.99, available at HomeSense, homesense.ca



Swirl Ring, \$24, Foxy Originals, foxvoriginals.com.



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• Your wine and spirits guide



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PUBLICATIONS



Sure, while Canadian spirits are usually brown, this unique blend of aged whiskies is filtered clear without losing any of

its rich, rounded flavours.

St-Germain Liqueur (\$44.42-\$59.99) This wine lover's liqueur is made with French hand-picked

champagne cocktails on Christmas morning. Masi 2007 Costasera **Amarone Classico**

elderflower blos-

soms. Soft and refreshing,

it's a perfect ingredient for

(\$38.95-\$49.99) Is there a red wine that appeals to every palate? I say it's Amarone. Made with dried grapes it's the ideal conversation vino that speaks volumes all by it-

Crystal Head Vodka (\$44.98-\$59.95)

OK, a skull-shaped bottle may



ST-GERMAIN

neutral

Brut Champagne Ice Jacket (\$65.15-\$69)

amond-filtered

Veuve's non-vintage yellow-labelled bubbly is a standard. Add a neoprene slip cover that will keep the passion juice cold for up to two hours and you are talking perfection.

St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur (\$24.85-\$28.98)

Cream liqueurs are a holiday essential and this one — made with base of St-Rémy brandy —

has a sexy creaminess that marries perfectly with its smooth alco-

Skate Whisky (\$49.98-\$49.99)

You will score with any Canadian whisky loving hockey fan gifting this spirit that's smooth and subtle ly kitschy (in a good way) on the outside.

Wychwood **Bah Humbug Christmas** Ale (\$3.50-\$5.29)

Ebenezer Scrooge's sour puss may be on the label, but this malty English ale will have the beer fans carolling.

The Kraken Black Spiced Rum (\$26.99-\$34.99)

Eggnog, meet your match. Dark, black and spicy, The Kraken unleashes major flavours that are exceptionally mixable and darn tasty on their own, too.

Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port (\$3,495.99)

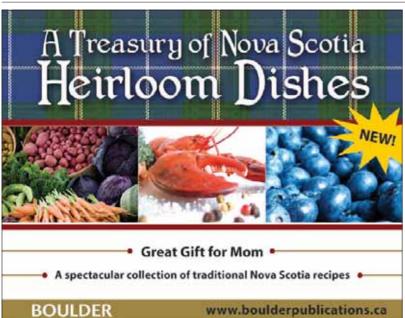
The wine for this once-in-alifetime tipple has been aged in barrels since 1855. Thought to be the last of its kind, there is no better way to say Merry Christmas.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Clockwise from top: St-Germain Liqueur; Wychwood Bah Humbug Christmas Ale; Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico; The Kraken Black Spiced Rum; St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur; Crystal Head Vodka; Skate Whisky; White Owl Whisky; and Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port.







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Moose face crease conundrum

• Help needed in Halifax crease Temporary solution may have to suffice with Terenzio still recovering from serious concussion problems



Anthony Terenzio appears to be on the mend, but the Halifax Mooseheads have a goaltending problem to solve in the mean-

The Mooseheads, who expect to get the 18-yearold Terenzio back from a concussion in the new year, are scrambling to find a stopper for at least their next three games with rookie starter Zach Fucale away with Team Quebec at the world under-17 challenge until Jan.

The Mooseheads only have rookie Marc-Olivier Daigle, 17, available for games on Dec. 27, 28 and 30. The 10th-round draft choice has yet to start in the QMJHL and has just 39 minutes to his credit.

'We'll have two goaltenders in and playing, but who those two goaltenders are, we're not sure," said Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell. "One of them will be Daigle, one will still be up in the air."

The Mooseheads can either acquire a proven goaltender via trade, sign a junior A goalie to an affiliate card, or perhaps least likely, recall overager Frederic Piche from the Quebec junior AAA ranks.

Terenzio hasn't done

Terenzio by

the numbers

Anthony Terenzio has a 15-19-4 record in two seasons with the Mooseheads along with one shutout, a 3.86 goals-against average and a .871 save percentage.

any physical activity since Oct. 21, but his progress means acquiring an established goalie is less likely. He was recently in Ottawa to see a chiropractor along with concussed teammate Steve Gillard, and Russell said they've "both come out of their

Gillard, a top defenceman, is already skating, while Terenzio will rejoin the team on Boxing Day and should be back on the ice soon.

"He's not at the point where we're saying he won't be back this year," Russell said. "We fully expect him to be back for the second half."

At least for now, Daigle is expected to get his first OMIHL start on Dec. 27 against the P.E.I. Rocket at the Metro Centre.

"He's most likely going to get his opportunity after Christmas," Russell "He's practised more than he ever has before, he's getting shots from world-class players, and he's definitely improved."

Goaltender Anthony Terenzio is making progress after missing 23 games with a concussion. He is expected to resume skating next week Frk's WJC obligation could hurt

An agreement between the IIHF and the Canadian Hockey League could prevent Martin Frk from playing in the

Mooseheads' next three



signed to prevent CHL teams from holding play-ers back from the World Junior Championship renders players named to WIC rosters

ineligible for the CHL during the tournament. The 18-year-old rightwinger was selected for Czech Republic's team but isn't playing because he missed more than three months with a concussion and isn't in game shape, with just one goal in seven games.

Russell said the Czech team "understands" Frk's situation and hopes an exception will be granted later this week.

MATTHEW WUEST



The agreement — de-



Clarke's next stop is Gatineau

Sports in brief

Mooseheads fall from Top-10

CHL. The Halifax Mooseheads dropped off the Canadian Hockey League's weekly Top-10 ranking on Wednesday, leaving three QMJHL teams on the list. The Mooseheads were No. 10 the previous week, cracking the list for the first time since Dec. 19, 2007. The Quebec Remparts, Saint John Sea Dogs and Shawinigan Cataractes are ranked third, fourth and fifth. The Mooseheads earned an honourable mention. The Ontario Hockey League's London Knights, meanwhile, retained their No. 1 ranking for the 13th straight week, followed by the Western Hockey League's Tri-City Americans.

METRO

move again. The former Halifax cut by the Bathurst Titan

Garrett Clarke is on the

Mooseheads defenceman, earlier this month, was traded by the Titan to the Gatineau Olympiques on Wednesday for fifth- and ninth-round draft picks.

The Olympiques will become Clarke's fifth QMJHL team since he was drafted sixth overall by the Lewiston Maineiacs in

He had two goals and 14 assists in 24 games with the Titan this sea-

The 19 year old has struggled with on- and office discipline throughout his career.

He played 63 games with Halifax — putting up 28 points and 218 penalty minutes — before being cut in November 2010.





More sports



FOR COVERAGE ON THE HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, FOLLOW @METROQFILES ON TWITTER OR VISIT MATTHEW WUEST'S Q FILES BLOG AT METRONEWS.CA/OFILES.





• Coach brings same energy, drive to Canada's junior hockey squad that he did in leading team to title in 1995

Asked to describe his coach in three words, Brendan Gallagher almost makes it.

"Competitive, knowledgeable, competitive," says Gallagher, then contin-

"He wants to win more than any other coach."

There is certainly a tirelessness about Don Hay, who coaches Gallagher on both the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants and the Canadian junior men's hockey hockey team.

During practice, Hay moves quickly, covers a lot of ice and continually bangs his stick on the ice. He reacts to his players' successes or failures during drills with a gesture or a grimace. Seventeen years after coaching Canada to gold at the 1995 World Junior Championship in Red Deer, Alta., Hay is stepping behind Canada's bench again with the 2012 edition of the team.

Canada opens the World Junior Championship Sunday in Edmonton versus Finland.

Hay can join Brent Sutter, Craig Hartsburg and Terry Simpson as the only men to coach Canada to gold twice.

Those men did it in back-to-back years. The long interval between Hay's stints is by his own choosing.

A successful junior coach with three Memorial Cup titles, as well as some NHL



coaching experience, Hay would have been a leading candidate for the job in recent years if he'd thrown his hat into the ring.

But Hay chose 2012, when the tournament returns to Alberta and the

scene of his success in '95.

"Being in Canada first and foremost, I feel comfortable coaching in Canada and in a North American rink," Hay said.

"I still have a passion to coach and I really desired to coach Canada again. I thought it was the right opportunity. I'm not getting any younger."

He may not be, but Hay is a fit 57-year-old. He's an avid runner who enters the Vancouver half-marathon every year. Hay has also not tired of challenging teenage hockey players to become better.

"He loves to see improvements in his players and that I think, along with his conditioning, is why he always seems like he has energy," says Ryan Huska, who is both Hay's assistant coach on the Canadian team and a former player of Hay's on the Kamloops Blazers.

"He really does love teaching kids and young players," Huska continued. "He likes to get them to progress and challenges them to move on to the next level and that's what drives him."

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Crossword

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46 47

56

59

Across 1 "Humbug!"

- 4 Actress Jessica
- 8 "Pow!"
- 12 Census statistic
- 13 Sense
- 14 Mosque VIP
- 15 Ball-carrier's target
- 17 Donate
- 18 Twosome
- 19 Beaten down
- 21 Coarse 24 Definite article
- 25 Blackbird
- 26 Gratuity
- 28 Ballroom dance
- 32 Baseball team
- 34 Popular pet
- 36 Praise highly
- 37 Trusty horse
- 39 Young 34-Across
- 41 Bar supply
- 42 Caustic solution
- 44 Recipient's reply
- 46 Modulate the
- voice 50 PussyCat's partner
- 51 Sandwich shop
- 52 Indispensable aid
- 56 Plumbing problem 57 Bedouin
- 58 Neither mate
- 59 Shaving gel brand
- 60 Head (Fr.) 61 Ram's fan?

- Down
- 2 Earlier
- 3 Banner

- 1 Suitcase
- 4 Showing buoyancy 5 Mainlander's me-

- 6 Crooked 7 Watchful 8 "Who cares?"
- 9 In the thick of 10 Church section
- 11 Feds
- 16 Schlep 20 Resistance meas-
- ure
- 21 Movina fleet 22 Condominium.
- e.g.
- 23 Disencumber
- 27 Burst 29 Suburban Philadel-
- phia area

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Gancer June 22-July 22 You

solar year. It's the ideal time to take

stock of how far you have come.

are now halfway through your

Ⅱ Gemini May 22-June 21

tial for trouble is huge.

- 30 Dollar
 - 31 Rhyming tributes 33 Thin and slippery

19

27

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49

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23

34

43

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57

60

26

38

- 35 Eviscerate
- 38 Coloring agent
- 40 "Friends" role
- 43 Brilliance 45 Puncturing tool
- 46 Between jobs
- 47 Require
- 48 Old Glory 49 Grow weary
- 53 Adipose tissue
- 54 Promptly
- 55 Before

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes,

14

17

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58

61

Yesterday's answer

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T Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them. Taurus April 21-May 21 As the

MP Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the

Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be

more open than usual. Embrace it.

Ω Leo July 23-Aug. 23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible. **△ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23** If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected. M Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The

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₹ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pav.

V Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins.

Think big, act big and expect big. Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes

you are too sensitive to criticism.

H Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

3		6		7		9	
	9				6		
4		5		9		8	
1	8				7	2	
							9
5	2				4	6	
9		4		1		7	
	1				2		
7		2		8		3	
	4 1 5 9	9 4 1 8 5 2 9	9 5 1 8 7 5 2 7 9 4 1 7	9	9	9 6 4 5 9 1 8 7 5 2 4 9 4 1 1 2	9 6 4 5 9 8 1 8 7 2 5 2 4 4 6 9 4 1 7 7 1 2 2 4 4 6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2			7					
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5		1					
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

Send a

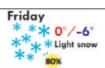
You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, ROSE YOUR WIFE

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! YOUR LOVE

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past, (18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo "FRED"





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